Volume 6, No. 7 • February 26, 1999

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The Bear Hunt

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Samuel Bearskin

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EDITORIAL

MEANING OF RITUALS

We recently received an interesting book in the mail, The Counselling Speeches of Jim Ka-Nipitehtew, a Plains Cree Elder. The book, in Cree and English, contains eight stories or interviews. It was published by University of Manitoba Press. Info: (204) 474-9495. Here we reprint part of the chapter called "Meaning of Rituals."

What is the meaning of the sweetgrass, why is that sweetgrass used? Why is it braided? When one braids it in three stands, "Three are the requests made there of the Sweetgrass-Old-Man," that is what the old men used to say. "Indeed, with these I myself will bless you, as you will braid the sweetgrass thus (in three strands), as you will braid it for your child then for his life and for a stable mind." That then the Sweetgrass-Old-Man had reportedly said.

"Indeed, it will come to pass where you are raising the wafts of your sweetgrass smoke, where you are chanting your prayers, that this sweetgrass will speak for you. For that reason respect it! When you respect your sweetgrass, just as it is beautiful when the Great Mother pushes it up through the ground, that is how your requests will be listened to." That is what they were reportedly told, the first ones. This is why sweetgrass is used.

Indeed, and now for this, what is that, fasting. Why is use made of making oneself suffer? Wanting a favourable answer and making a request, when troubled by some illness, that is when a person used to make himself suffer. Requesting that the dream spirit should listen to him with pity and that he would see recognisable signs of his grace when asking for something of him. That is why he makes himself suffer, for example in the sun-dance, when a person makes himself suffer. He seeks to obtain life, so that he (the dream spirit) should listen to him with pity, as he takes his children and grandchildren along in his prayers. This is the meaning of that.

Indeed, and now for this, the sweat-lodge, as it is called. Well, it was then that our elder brother Wisahketchahk charged the Kind-Man-Rock: "You, indeed, you will complete the prayer for the sweat-lodge. Indeed, where a person is chanting his prayers, where he makes a mistake in chanting his prayer, indeed, you all complete his prayer! You complete the prayer for him, let him obtain a favourable answer! Lo, this is going to happen and people are going to play around with this, learning merely by imitation (rather than by instruction), learning by imitation will be used. But for a person who believes in it, you all complete his chanting prayer! As he raises the pipe, help him to point it the right way, the pipestem." That is what he reportedly said. "Then listen to him with pity when he requests something from you in the sweat-lodge, as four times he gradually cools the rock with water, as he gradually pours the rock-sprinkling-water for you." - "It is then that I will hear him clearly," thus reportedly spoke in response, all along, Kind-Man-Rock. This is what is used in the sweat-lodge, everywhere he (Kind-Man-Rock) is placed in the foremost position. Various lodges are made, the sun-dance, the pipe-lodge, the prairie-chicken dance, already he is there (in first position), Kind-Man-Rock. We make him our advocate and he speaks for us."

Contents

NEWS

5 **NUNAVIK CHALLENGED**
ON CREE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS

5 **INUIT PEEVED**
NO CONSULTATION ON BAN

7 **JACK BLACKSMITH**
AND YOUR MONEY...

7 **BRIEFS** ❖ MINING FRENZY, RACETTE TAKES ON EL NORTE

COVER

10 **SAMUEL BEARSKIN**
PERSEVERANCE

MUSIC

17 **WILLIE MITCHELL**
A SHOT RANG OUT...

PARENTING

19 **NOT HEROES...**
BUT PARENTS

SPORTS

27 **SKATING CLUB SHINES**
EVERYONE A WINNER

THE COVER
Samuel Bearskin
See story, page 10
Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rezNotes

by Ndiamon

PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND (with the help of scuba buddy K.C.)

A shark lurks beneath our boat, waiting for some tasty "Cree meat."

One of the first lessons you learn in scuba diving is never, ever hold your breath. Pretty hard to remember when you jump into 60 feet of water with massive waves and the first sign of life you see is a shark circling 10 feet below you.

We are aboard the Cat Ppalu, a 60-foot catamaran, in the Exumas east of Nassau in the Bahamas. Pirates ruled the waters around this 100-mile chain of islands some 200 years ago. The city of Nassau is famous as the site where pirates docked their ships to count and spend their treasure on prostitutes, carouse with other pirates and drink barrels and barrels of the finest rum in the Caribbean. Today it is a divers', snorkellers' and sunbathers' paradise. And also the site of the Michael Jackson and Oprah Winfrey-owned castle where a one-night suite can go for $25,000. Jackson and Winfrey carrying on the greedy pirate tradition in their own unique way. But this wasn't the time to be thinking such angry thoughts. We were here to dive the miles and miles of coral reefs exploring a world few people get to see.

The first dive is always the hardest even at a mere 25 feet. You're nervous and your heart beats faster as you struggle to your feet with some 40 pounds of equipment strapped to your back. Moments before you jump in you try to remember what you learned in the pool months ago, do not hold your breath, equalize the air space in your ears, descend slowly, stick with your buddy, again, do not hold your breath, check how much air you have left constantly, relax, breathe slowly, it'll be okay. And stay away from those fish with the giant gnashing teeth!

Finally, the leap of faith into the waves. Splash. The air in your vest shoots you up as the cool water enters your wet suit. You signal that you're okay and kick away from the entry point. You slowly let the air out of your vest and you descend. You're completely weightless, flying and the ocean bottom is clear, calm and filled with life. Silver barracudas float calmly by, curious smaller fish approach within inches of your mask, giant mouthed groupers in small groups float motionless waiting to pounce on breakfast, a trio of reef sharks circle slowly, sea turtles swim awkwardly and turn sharply to avoid the foreign bubble blowers. Even turtles move faster than humans down here.

Thousands of fish gather and feed around the coral. Wide cracks in coral called swim-thru's by divers twist and wind their way through deeper water and end abruptly near the wall's edge. You emerge from a swim thru and look down. The water is cold blue and there is the abyss, 5000 feet deep. You swim along the wall and a giant spotted ray four times your size flies over the edge into the abyss and disappears. You enter another swim thru they call "The Church" and the coral towers over you. At high noon the sun peeks out of the clouds and intensifies the rainbow of colours in "The Church" and it takes your breath away. The most beautiful church in the world pales in comparison. You don't want to leave but your gauges tell you it's time to head back.

The sun sets and it's time to prepare for the night dive. Fluorescent glowsticks are secured to tanks and batteries for flashlights are double-checked. Lobster that wouldn't fit in your pots at home and black alien-like sea urchins with foot-long spikes for protection come out. Coral that looks ordinary in daytime glows and changes color. Fellow divers who accidentally shine their light in your eyes blind you. Some people prefer night dives.

Most dives are slow affairs with people trying to conserve air. Once in a while though you get a chance to drift with the current for miles. You enter the water at a channel with more weight than normal so you descend faster. The current allows you to literally fly through fields, hills and valleys of grass at depths of 30 to 45 feet. Startled fish and turtles pop out of rocks just feet away from you. The dive master does somersaults while holding on to the safety rope which everyone will grab onto at the end. 20 minutes and a mile later you surface and scream, "Let's do it again!"

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Nation

Nunavut stomps on Aboriginal rights?

History will be made on April 1 when Canada gets its first Native-majority territory, Nunavut.

Voters flocked to the polls in record numbers last week to elect MLAs to the new territory's legislature. The 88-percent turnout is nearly double the numbers who voted in NWT elections of the past.

"The strong message from voters was that we want this government to treat us differently," said Simon Awa, executive director of the Nunavut Implementation Commission.

"Out with the old and in with the new."

But not everyone is happy now that the big day is here. All along Nunavut's southern border, various First Nations including the Crees have discovered that their traditional lands were included in Nunavut without their consent.

The Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), an alliance of 26 First Nations with 45,000 members, went so far as to file a case in the Federal Court of Canada... five years ago. That case is still unresolved, even though Nunavut is almost hatched.

In James Bay, the ownership of the offshore islands has remained in dispute for at least 25 years. The islands are part of the Northwest Territories, but will pass over to Nunavut on April 1.

Technically, a Cree who kills a goose on one of the islands needs an NWT export permit to bring it to his community. Normally, the rule isn't enforced in Quebec, but it is on Amiski Island on the Ontario side of James Bay.

"Cree hunters get harassed there all the time. We don't want that to happen to us," said Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees.

The Grand Council is considering legal action, "even if it would jeapordize Nunavut," said Namagoose. "You can't just transfer Aboriginal people to another jurisdiction without due process."

Grand Chief Francis Flett, of the MKO, said in an interview that he is worried the creation of Nunavut may mean the extinguishment of other Aboriginal rights in the new territory.

Flett pointed to the Indian Affairs legal response to the MKO lawsuit, in which Ottawa seems to cast doubt on other Aboriginal rights in Nunavut. "Any such supposed rights to hunt, trap and fish exist at the sufferance of the Crown," it says.

Said Flett, "We're not against them having self-government. But certainly, they have to respect the rights we have. The government is trying to shove this aside."

NDP MP Bev Desjarlais, who represents Manitoba's northern Churchill riding, took Indian Affairs to task in the House of Commons earlier this month. While she supports Inuit self-government in Nunavut, she wondered why Ottawa refuses to recognize other Native claims in the territory.

"One land claim doesn't trump another," Desjarlais told The Nation. "The government is using the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to get out of its treaty obligations to other Aboriginal people."

Desjarlais said Ottawa may be ignoring the Dene because "there was a belief they would roll over and play dead."

Indian Affairs and Nunavut authorities couldn't be reached.

by Alex Roslin

Leghold ban: Inuit not pleased

Canada has to do a better job of consulting First Nations on the coming ban on leghold traps, says the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

The country's 1,200 Inuit trappers use mostly leghold traps to catch Arctic fox and other animals, said Eric Loring, environmental coordinator for the Inuit Tapirisat.

But information about the ban isn't filtering down to the trappers, he said. Loring said he doesn't even know if it will be illegal to own a leghold trap, or merely to use one. "That's the thing. There needs to be better consultation."

Loring's comments are significant because the Inuit Tapirisat has a seat on the Fur Institute of Canada's Aboriginal Communications Committee. The Fur Institute is the non-Native agency hired by Indian Affairs for several million dollars to inform trappers about the changes and develop new "humane" traps.

The Inuit, Assembly of First Nations and Métis National Council say the Fur Institute is doing a poor job of informing Natives.

"I don't think Native people are adequately represented by the Fur Institute," Loring said. "The problem is they have an old government voice. They don't really have an idea what Aboriginal organizations are trying to do."

Loring did applaud Ottawa for helping the Inuit fight the European seal-products ban a few years back. But he chided Ottawa for not consulting Natives when it agreed to the leghold-trap ban in the first place in 1997. He said proper consultation is vital at this stage of the game.

Alison Beal, the Ottawa-based Fur Institute's executive director, insisted that the institute is collaborating with national Aboriginal organizations to inform Natives.

"Oh, yeah," she replied when asked if there was cooperation. "Nobody has said don't do it. One's hopeful that we're working cooperatively."

Indian Affairs official Smokey Bruyere acknowledged Natives were never consulted on the leghold ban. "We didn't have time to do that. How much time is it going to take to have those meetings across the country?"

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

Family appeal

Letter to The Nation:

This letter is to show our support to our mother, Daisy L. Metabie, who is presently residing at a Val d'Or foster home.

We, her children, are saddened because our mother doesn't live at home. She lives 500 km away from home.

In the beginning of her illness, she was transferred from one hospital to another as there was no hemo-dialysis machine available near our hometown of Mistissini. This hemo-dialysis is a special machine for people with malfunctioning kidneys and it is their only way of survival until the right kidney donor can be found. As we were saying, our mother was often transferred from one hospital to another, which caused our family a lot of inconvenience.

For example, one day she was admitted at this one hospital, then the next day we go to visit her and find out she had been transferred to another hospital.

Three of us are married with our own children and it is extremely difficult for us to travel with our young children, but more so for our younger brother who has been handicapped due to a freak accident in 1995. His name is Jean Marie and he lives at home with our dad. Jean Marie has also been bound to a wheelchair since his accident. As you can see, our life situation is very stressful and we are trying to cope with it as best as we can. This is why it is very important to get your support to make it possible for our mother Daisy to receive her necessary treatments closer to home. Two or more hemo-dialysis machines will be needed to treat patients. This depends on the number of patients to be treated. This machine costs approximately $30,000. This is the reason we are seeking donations to make it possible to acquire these machines near Mistissini. If anyone has further information on these hemo-dialysis machines, please don't hesitate to contact our mother at (819) 825-9933.

We all pray that one day very soon our prayers will be answered to have this special machine that keeps our mother alive near our home. It certainly would make a big difference in our lives, but also for others who may be in the same situation, such as our mother's friend, Jane Alice Matoush-Shecapio.

We miss our mother. Please make it possible for her to be at home with her family.

From her children and grandchildren, son and daughters-in-law,

Derek, Tina, Keeia, Simon, Caroline, Hilary, Jean Claude, Troy, Joshua, Angel, Alfred, Collen, Heather, Suzanne, Damian, Jean Marie

P.S. Our mother wishes to thank the people from Mistissini and Waswanipi who have given or shown their support to the above-mentioned cause. She also wishes to thank The Nation for giving her letter priority by publishing it as soon as they received it. Thank you again.

You love us, you really love us!

Letter to The Nation:

Hi. First I would like to say to you guys at The Nation that you are doing a tremendous

continued on page 28

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MEET JACK, THE MAN who's got your money on his mind. Jack Blacksmith has become well-known to Crees as the Grand Council's point-man on forestry issues. Last summer, his and others' efforts paid off with the filing of the $700-million-plus Cree lawsuit against Quebec, Ottawa and the forestry industry.

On December 10, Blacksmith took on a new, equally challenging job as chairman of the Board of Compensation and CREE CO. The two-year appointment comes at a tough time for CREE CO., which reported a loss of $7.55 million last year and a soaring accumulated deficit of $31.7 million. Blacksmith doesn't come to the job without experience. He's been Waswanipi's representative on the Board of Compensation for over seven years, most recently serving as vice-chairman.

In this interview, Blacksmith talks about a wide range of issues affecting your money. How are Cree heritage funds invested? How badly did the Bre-X crash and last year's global financial meltdown hurt Cree investments? What's behind the financial troubles of CREE CO.?

He also wants to finally hire more Crees at the Cree companies (where only one in three employees is now Cree), and says CREE CO. is open for business with Crees and ready for fresh ideas.

The Nation: How much money do you manage?

Jack Blacksmith: As of December 31, the Board of Compensation had approximately $98.311 million in funds. Out of that, we have a Growth Fund of $32 million. The revenue of that fund is never touched. The money managers leave that revenue in there to make it grow and it is held in stable investments.

One of the things the Board of Compensation realized a few years ago was that our purchasing power was diminishing from year to year. And our children and our children's children wouldn't see very much of the funds. So we said, let's try to do something to offset that.

We initially invested about $15 million in the Growth Fund in the late 1980s, but we've added to it since then.

How is the rest of the money invested?

We try to find the maximum return, the best out there, so we don't lose our shirts. We give our investment policy to our money managers (Guardian, Tal, TD Index Fund and Griffon Shift Fund), so they know we want so much in stocks, so much in cash and so much in bonds.

We're creating an investment committee right now which will have more of a hands-on approach to the investments. Sometimes things happen too fast out there and the board can't meet in time to make a decision.

What rate of return do you aim at?

It's not so much of a target rather than trying to stay just above the market return. The money managers are telling us

continued on page 9

Miners flock to Lac Rocher

Choppers are buzzing around overhead at Malcolm Saganash's trapline after a mining company announced a high-grade nickel, copper and platinum find in the area.

After the discovery, Nuinsco Resources saw its share price nearly triple in one day, shooting up from 75 cents to $2.10.

Nuinsco is exploring near Lac Rocher, about 120 kilometres northeast of Matagami, on the W-05D trapline. The drilling isn't far from the Saganash camp and a nearby mountain with a moose yard.

Relations between the company and the Saganashs are apparently off to a bad start. The family asked the company to fly Malcolm's mother to the other side of the mountain, but Nuinsco refused. We couldn't reach the family for a comment.

In Toronto, Nuinsco spokesman Olav Svela was unaware of the Cree presence in the area. "I don't know anything about that."

Svela described the mineral deposit as "a very, very good intersection." Nuinsco has been exploring the site since the middle of 1998 and has invested "a few hundred thousand dollars." Svela said the site is still far from being mineable and more exploration is needed. "The reality is these things require a lot of drilling."

7,000-km fundraiser

A LaSarre mechanic is on a marathon journey to raise funds for his local hospital: 7,000 kilometres by snowmobile - equal to one-fifth of the way around the planet.

Serge Racette, who was chief of security in the last two Raid des Braves races, started his trip in LaSarre and headed through the coastal Cree communities, continuing through Nunavik and Labrador.

"It's harder than playing bingo, but I think it's a trip that will save my life. It's sure that I'll come back from a trip like this having won - from the people I met, the things I saw, my experiences," Racette explained before heading out.

He doesn't want to stay in hotels, but in people's homes. "I want to see how Native people live so I can explain it better to others," said Racette, who plans a book on the trip, expected to take 50 days.

Donations will go to buy a CAT scanner for the hospital, which Racette said Quebec refuses to fund. His target: $600,000.

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continued from page 7

anywhere from 6 to 9 per cent is the thing to look at. We compare the markets to what our people are doing. And with the investment committee, these guys will be really on top of the money managers. They'll monitor their progress.

What return do you expect this year?

This year we're looking at approximately 7.5 to 8.5-per-cent return for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

What do you see in stocks in the coming year?

Our money managers are telling us the market is probably going to stabilize itself. But it's not going to go up to where it was before July. They're telling us it should settle down. But they're telling us also that there are some companies that have overburdened the market (control too much of the market -Ed.) When you're in that situation and something drastic happens to that company, the whole market is going to be affected. Whereas if you have a pretty level field, when one company has a bad situation the market is able to ride that along with no problem.

What the guys are telling us is the market is a little overrated in terms of stocks. But, yes, they're telling us the stock market will probably be fairly decent for us this year.

Did the financial meltdown in Asia, Brazil and Russia have an impact on the Cree funds?

Our money managers say the Russian crash doesn't affect the markets that much, not as much as the Asian problems. When things go downhill there it really affects the markets. I'm not sure to what extent we have investments there, but, again, I come back to the investment committee. That's what the committee can really look at. When they see things start to happen, they can make that decision before the situation gets really bad.

Do you see a recession coming up in the short- or medium-term?

Money managers are always telling us a different story. One will tell us a real scary story and the other one comes in and it's a whole different thing altogether; it's all smelling like roses. It's very hard to tell. Nobody has that magic crystal ball. If we all had crystal balls, we would have all bought into Microsoft when it was at $2. We'd all be walking around millionaires. Even with Bre-X, we would have all bought shares and sold them when the crash came. We didn't know when the crash came and a lot of people lost money.

Willie Mitchell, back in the saddle. See story, page 17.

Did the Crees have money invested in Bre-X?

We didn't lose a lot of money. I think it was probably $100,000 or $150,000, somewhere in that neighbourhood. We had to write it off as a loss.

Do you find it's becoming more difficult to meet the needs of the entities and communities at the same time as the returns aren't increasing?

Yes. For sure. You just hit the nail on the head. The funding needs of the community organizations, communities and regional organizations are increasing every year. But our level of revenues don't grow at the same level. That's a real problem for us. How are we going to fund all these things? There's a real lop-sided effect there.

Is it hard to be head of both the Board of Compensation and CREECO.?

It is. It is very difficult when you consider what's happening with these companies. But you've got to remember the situation in terms of how this came to be. When CREE CO. was first created, it had its own board of directors.

Back a few years ago, there was a problem in terms of making decisions. A lot of people, in my opinion anyway, made decisions without proper authority, without proper notice to the entire board, because the board was never able to meet; it never had quorum.

So the Board of Compensation, as the owner of CREE CO., took over the whole operation.

With CREE CO., how do you see its situation? Do some changes need to be made with the way it's run?

We've been doing that in the past couple of years. For example, we're thinking of taking the salary or pay operations of each entity and putting them in a Cree community. Maybe you can create a few jobs when you combine the payroll of those companies. That's the kind of thing we can look at.

But the biggest thing is we Crees created these companies, and we Crees don't use them to the extent that we should. For instance, Cree Construction - I realize it's made a name for itself in all the Cree communities. With all the contracts that are happening in the communities, I don't think Cree Construction got 15, 20 per cent of

continued on page 31

COVER

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ᓂᐲ ᑎᒍᑭᔪᒃ ᐊᓂᔅ ᐊᑲᒃ ᐅᓐᑭ ᐊᐱᓐᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐅᓪᓕᓂᓕᓄᑦ. ᐃᓴᐊ ᐅᒡᒍ 45 ᑎᓐᑐᐳᓐᓄᑦ ᐃᓗ ᐅᒡᒍᓐᓄᑦ, ᐊᑯᒡᒍ ᑲ ᐃᓗ ᑎᒍᑭᔪᖅᓯᒃ. ᐊᑯᓄ ᐊᔪᓕᑯᓄᑦ ᐊᓐ ᐱᒃᓭ ᐊᐊᓐ ᑲ ᑭᓐᑐᑎᓄᑦ ᑲᑲᔪᓄᑦ ᓄᓇ ᐱᒃᓭ ᐊᐃᐃᑐᐃᓐᓇᖅ ᐃᓐᓇᓄᑦ, ᖃᐃᒡᓕ ᐊᓐᓄ ᐱᑎ ᑭᓐᑐᑎᓄᑦ ᑲᑲᔪᓄᑦ. ᐅᓂᒃ ᐱᑎ ᑭᓐᑐᑎᓄᑦ, ᐊᑯᓄ ᐱᒃᓭ ᐊᐱᓐᑎᓄᑦ ᐊᓂᔅ ᑲᑲᔪᓄᑦ ᓄᓇ ᐱᒃᓭ ᐊᐃᐃᑐᐃᓐᓇᖅ. ᐊᑕᓂᑦ ᐅ ᑲ ᐅᓐᑭ ᑎᒍᑭᔪᖅᓯᒃ. ᐊᑕᓂᑦ ᐊᓐ ᐅ ᓂᔅ ᕿᔪᑦ ᐊᐊᓐ ᔭᓐ ᑲ ᓇᓐᔭᐊᐃᐃᑐᐃᓐᓇᖅᓄᑦ ᐃᓗᐃᑎᑎᓄᑦ ᑲᑲᔪᓄᑦ ᓄᓇ ᑕᑎᓂᑦ. ᐊᑕᓂᑦ ᐅ ᓂᔅ ᕿᔪᑦ, ᐅᒡᒍ ᐱᒃᓭ ᑲ ᕿᑎ ᐅᓪᓕᓂᓕᓄᑦᓯᒃ.

ᒪᑐᓂ ᑲᑎ ᐅᓐᑭ ᑎᓐᐱᐱᑉᓯᒃᓄᑦ ᐅ ᕆᓚᓐᑎᑦ ᑲᑎ ᐃᓐᑕᔪᓐᑦ. ᑎᐹᓐᑦ, ᓂᐲᓕ ᐊᓐᓄᑦ ᑲᑎ ᐃᓐᑕᔪᓐᑦ. ᐅ ᑲ ᐃᔨᓂ ᐊᓐᓄᑦ ᐃᓐᓇᐃᐊᓕᓐᓂ, ᒪᑭᒃ ᐊᓂᒡᒍ ᐃᑉᑦ ᑎᓐᑎᐊ ᑎᓴᓐᐱᐊ ᐊ ᐃᔨᓂ ᐃᓐᑕᔪᓐᑦ. ᐊᑯᒡᒍ ᒪᓕᑦ ᐊᓂᒡᒍ ᑲᑎ ᐅᓐᑭ ᑲᓂ ᐅᓂᓴᖅᓄᑦ ᐅᒡᒍ ᕆᓚᓐᑎᑯᓄᑦ. ᓴᒡᒍᑦ ᐊᑎᖅ ᑲᑎ ᐱᒃᓭ ᐊᐃᐃᑐᐃᓐᓇᖅᓄᑦ ᐃᓗᐃᑎᑎᓄᑦ ᐊᓂᔅ ᐊᐃᐃᑐᐃᓐᓇᖅᓄᑦ ᐃᓐᓇᐃᐊᓕᓐᓂ ᐊᓂᔅ

ᑭᓄᖅ ᓴᓐᓵᓄ ᓂᒥ ᓄᓇᕗᑦᓯᓐᓂᖅ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᑭᓄᖅ ᓂᕆᔨᒪᔭ

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ᐊᕐ ᒥᓂ. ᑕᐱᒃ ᓇᐅᓐ ᑎᐱᖏᓂ. ᑕᕐᓯ ᑲᒃᓂ ᑭᓯ ᓂᑎ ᐃᔨᓇᓂ ᑲᒋᑦ ᐃᑦᑐᖅᓴᓂ. ᐊᑎ ᐊᐱᓴᑦ ᑭᓯ ᑭᖅ ᐊᓂᑕ ᐊᑎ ᐃᓴᑦᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᐅᓗᐃ ᑭᓯ ᑭᖅ ᓂᒋ ᓂᕈᓇᓇᓂ, ᑕᕐᓯ ᓂᑎ ᐃᔨᓇᓂ ᓇᓂᓂ ᑲ ᓂᕈᑲᑲᖏᓂ. ᐅ ᓂᒋᑕᑦᓇᓂ, ᐊᐅᓂ ᒪᖏᑦᖏᓂ ᐅ ᐊᑎ ᐊᐱᓴᑦ. ᑲᑐᓂᑕᖏᓂ ᒥᓂ. ᑲᓂ ᒥᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐅᑕᓂᐅᔪᓂ. ᑲᓂ ᑲᒃᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐅᑎᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᓂᑕ ᐅᑎᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᐅᓂᐅᑕᓇᑲᓂ ᑲᓂ ᑭᓯ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᐅᓂᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᑕᕐᓯ ᓂᑎ ᐃᔨᓇᓂ ᓇᓂᓂ ᑲᒃᓂ ᑎᑎᖅᓴᓂ. ᑲᓂ ᑭᓯ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ.

ᓇᓐᑎᓂ ᓂᒥ ᐊᐅᓂ ᑭᖅ ᓂᑲ ᑭᓴᐊᑕᑭᓐᓂᕐᓂ. ᖃᑕᕐᒥᓂ, ᓂᖃᖅᓂ ᒥᓂ ᑭᓴᐊᑕᑭᓐᓂᕐᓂ. ᒥᓂ ᑭᓯ ᐅᓗᐃ ᓂᕈᑐᑕᓂᓇᓂ. ᓂᑲᑕᑕᑦᓂᓇᓂ ᑭᓯ ᑭᖅ ᓂᑲ ᑭᓴᐊᑕᑭᓐᓂᕐᓂ. ᒥᓂ ᑭᓯ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᐅᓂᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᑕᕐᓯ ᓂᑎ ᐃᔨᓇᓂ ᓇᓂᓂ ᑲᒃᓂ ᐅᑎᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᐅᓗᐃ ᐅᑎᑕᖅᓴᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐃᓐᓇᑕᖅᓴᓂ. ᐊᑎ ᐃᓐᓇ

Voices of the Elders:

THE BEAR HUNT

As told by Samuel Bearskin

I will tell a story of how it was in the past. This story must have taken place around 45 years ago. When someone is determined to do something, he'll eventually succeed. He shouldn't turn his back on what he wants to accomplish if he doesn't see it right away. I'll tell you a story of my youth. I was among the ones who hunted for my food out on the land.

In the fall, we left from the island settlement here on Chisasibi to live in the bush. This river was called Chisasibi as soon as Iyiyuu knew about it. We began our canoe trip from the island. We paddled up the river near where our community is located now. We occasionally rested here at the shore of our present-day community. We journeyed to the east to the middle of the land. We were sometimes closer to the other side. We always paddled to distant places.

In the past, people began using bush planes to transport their supplies to their traplines but the people themselves paddled in their canoes. Later, they flew to their traplines. This was the first time my uncle used a bush plane to transport his supplies to his trapline. Both my parents had passed away when I was young so I lived with my uncle. I was 15 years old at this time. It snowed as we paddled to our trapline and the small lakes were covered with ice. We only paddled on the large lakes which weren't frozen yet. We dropped off our things at the place of our winter camp and we set off for our supplies that were dropped off by the plane.

We weren't able to paddle on some of the lakes but we still took our canoe. I was able to carry the canoe on my shoulders by that time. My uncle had said there was a river we'd reach and that it probably wasn't frozen yet. We slept out in the open twice. We simply walked. We reached that river my uncle had mentioned and it still wasn't covered with ice. There was a huge lake with an island in the middle. This was where the bush plane had dropped off our supplies. It was already late in the evening when we reached our supplies. We stayed on that island for the night.

In the morning, we took our supplies to the shore of that lake. It was a calm day. It took us the entire day to paddle across because this is a very large lake. The lake is called Minaawaan (Egg Gathering Place). It is far inland. There is another lake called Minaawaan near where the old settlement Kaanaayaapiskaau was. But this lake where our supplies were is farther. We stayed the night at the shore of this lake after we transported our supplies across.

We cached our supplies there. My uncle said we'd come and pick it up once he had made toboggans. I still wasn't able to make toboggans. So we left again heading back to our camp site. We left our canoe also. We walked. We camped

once and left in the morning again. We were about half-way home and it had snowed a bit when I came across bear tracks. I waited for the rest to catch up. There were four of us - my uncle, my aunt and my aunt's sibling. My uncle said, "We'll follow the bear tracks tomorrow. First, let's go back to our camp." In the morning, he said, "Let's go." We followed the tracks of the bear. It became dark as we followed the tracks and we stayed there the night. We made a fire. It snowed during the night. My uncle mentioned that we might not be able to track the bear if the snow covered its tracks.

In the morning, we could still see the bear tracks in the snow. My uncle mentioned that there was a river we'd reach. He said, "If the bear reached that river, it must've crossed it and we won't be able to cross it." The bear tracks led down to the shore of the river. It had crossed the river. My uncle said, "We won't be able to do anything so let's go home." We headed back to our camp.

There were many small lakes as we walked but it still wasn't safe to walk on the ice. We saw two beavers. My uncle shot them and killed them. He said, "At least we'll bring something home." It was already dark when we reached our camp. My uncle had said that if we still had our canoe, we'd be able to go where the bear went. We lived near the same river the bear had crossed. It snowed again in the morning and it started raining for about a week. It rained down hard but the snow hadn't all melted away.

My uncle was very knowledgeable because he knew about living in the bush for a long time. He said, "I think the tracks of the bear are still visible." He told me to go over to where it had walked. It was a bit far from our camp. I went over and saw the tracks still clearly visible. I returned home. It was already dark. I told my uncle that the tracks were still visible. It was starting to get cold at night. The river started to freeze. My uncle said, "We'll try to walk across the river here. If we're able to walk across, we'll track down the bear again."

"My uncle didn't mention anything about returning home..."

In the morning, my uncle and I walked onto the ice of the river near our camp. He led the way. He advised me to stay far from him so I wouldn't fall through the ice if he did. He taught me what to do. I did what he said. He took a walking stick and tested the ice. He moved quickly across the ice. Then I knew he wasn't afraid of falling through. We got across and he said, "Let's go."

I think we only took enough food for two meals. We left. He told me to lead the way and told me where to go. The bear must have crossed the river straight across from where we last saw the tracks. We didn't walk close to the river. We walked into the bush. Then we saw its tracks. It was getting dark. We weren't that far from our camp and we stayed there that night. We didn't bring anything along to use as shelter. We couldn't sleep because we didn't have any bedding also. It was a long night. At dawn, we ate the last of our food and we left again. It became dark again and we still hadn't reached the bear. We stayed out in the open again that night and left again in the morning.

My uncle didn't mention anything about returning home. I wondered why we didn't just simply go home. It was probably because I was hungry. But I didn't say anything. I guess I didn't really mind. My uncle wouldn't shoot any of the partridges we had seen during the day as we walked because he was afraid the bear would hear the gun shot.

The bear tracks led to a lake. We lost the bear. The lake was probably not covered with ice when the bear had reached it. My uncle said, "The bear must have swam off." We walked around this large lake looking for signs of the bear but we didn't see any. We even checked all the islands but didn't see anything.

Then my uncle said, "There is a little place we still haven't checked out. Let's go there. If we don't find the bear, we'll stop our search." He said the bear probably fell through the ice and sank if the ice had already formed on the lake. On the lake was a long point of land. This was the place we hadn't checked yet. Half-way on that narrow point we saw the signs of the bear. We saw where it had disturbed the ground to make a den. When we arrived, here was the bear peeking out of its den. We shot it and killed it. My uncle butchered a little bit of the bear. He said, "I'll carry this part and you'll carry the rest." We walked home.

We hadn't gone that far and it became dark again. This was the third night and we didn't sleep that night again because it was so cold outside. We stayed the night. That night, my uncle told me not to give up when I wanted to accomplish something. "You'll eventually succeed if you try," he

Cont'd on page 16

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Cont'd from page 15

said. "This is the fourth night we pursued the bear. At first, we couldn't track it down because it had crossed the river. A person will eventually accomplish what he wants to do. If he gives up early, he won't be able to get what he wants." I simply agreed because I didn't talk back to my uncle's advice.

What my uncle said was true. I later realized this, because I didn't really listen to what he said at first since I was still young. I took his advice and didn't quit at what I wanted to accomplish. Eventually, I was able to do it. The young people don't realize how it was for us older people. I'll be 65 this summer. We are the last generation who saw that lifestyle of hard work and determination to accomplish our tasks.

I'll give you an example of three animals - the caribou, bear and moose. They all have four legs. Even when the bear was not wounded yet and there was no snow in its way as it ran away, I caught up to it when I ran after it. I also caught up with caribou. It wasn't able to defeat me. I once pursued a caribou for two days when the snow was a bit high. I eventually caught up to it. The caribou runs very fast and it left me behind at first but I walked to where it had gone and caught up to it. I did the same with the moose in the winter when the snow wasn't that high. I still caught up to it wearing only my snowshoes. The story I'm telling you is that I wasn't lazy. My uncle was the same when he was still determined to do something. I learned by watching my uncle. I don't seem to remember my father but I guess he was the same.

For the young people, don't give up when you want to accomplish something. You'll eventually succeed. This was what my uncle said. There were times when my uncle didn't come home at night when we were in the bush. I was frightened the first time I realized he wasn't coming home. My aunt reassured me that my uncle must have seen signs of an otter. She said, "Forget about him. He won't come home tonight." My uncle usually returned the next evening. He was determined to harvest fur because this was his only way to have money from trading. He didn't work at any job. There were times when he brought back three otters.

It was not too long ago when my uncle passed away. Our family tried to claim his money after he passed away. When we were finally able to get it, there was about $60,000. But he didn't work at any job. It was only furs that my uncle harvested. This was his money that was left over. He used to buy vehicles, skidoos, outboard motors and canoes. It was because of his determination he was able to get these things. For the young people, you should not give up at what you're trying to accomplish.

Translated and transcribed by Brian Webb. This story is the first in a series of the *Voices of the Elders:* made possible with the assistance of the Canada Council.

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

ceremonies

By William Nicholls

You always hear about musicians paying their dues. You could say Willie Mitchell paid his a long time ago. Willie, the well-known Algonquin musician and song-writer who lives in Mistissini, remembers the time he was shot by the police for stealing two spotlights.

He had just started his first band at age 15. It was a Thursday night and his bandmates said the lights would look good on stage. They stole the lights and when the police drove by Willie was carrying them. The police stopped near his friends, Willie dropped the lights and ran towards the bush.

As he was running, a police officer got out of the car and shot at him twice. Willie jumped over the snowbank into knee-high snow and started plowing through. The police officer stopped at the snowbank and shot again. Willie was hit in the back of the head. The bullet exited the left cheek of his face. Willie fell and the cop came up to him. Willie remembers thinking that the cop was going to shoot him again.

He got up without police assistance and walked toward some houses. He used his finger to plug the hole in his cheek where the bullet had exited. He rang a doorbell and asked for an ambulance. He passed out twice only to wake up with a priest giving him last rites. He pushed the priest away and was med'evaced to Ottawa where he spent a month recovering.

Willie wrote the song "Big Policeman" while in the hospital. It's on his latest album as it is the 30th anniversary of the shooting. The album, entitled Ceremonies, is Willie's third. It was recorded in October 1998.

After the shooting, Willie sued the police force for $175,000, but had to settle for $2,500. He spent $500 on his first guitar and gave the rest of the money to his mother. Today he still has that guitar. "It's in fine shape," says Willie. This was the first time in Canada that an Indian had ever brought a civil suit against the police.

Well, now that you have an idea how Willie paid his dues, listen to the results on his latest album. Remakes of old favourites like "Birchbark Letter" and "Call of the Moose" will surprise and delight you. Call of the Moose is definitely upbeat - a song of Aboriginal survival and protest made stronger and rougher. You have to listen to the guitar in this one.

"Ceremonies," the title track, refers to the Cree walking out ceremony in the beginning. It goes on to talk about life, the land and all the ceremonies that connect us to them - a plaintive cry to remember our past and to look to the future and the use they have in it. Something a lot of Native people will connect to in a big way.

You have to wonder why he hasn't been signed by a major label yet. This album is a strong offering for any artist. Definitely worth checking out.

If you can't find Ceremonies in a store near, you just write: Willie Mitchell, General Delivery, Mistissini, Quebec, G0W 1C0.

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Hydro-Quebec's LG-1

Dams on Eeyou Istcheee	Megawatts (1 megawatt = 1,000 kilowatts)		
Robert Bourassa (LG2)	5,328		
La Grande-4	2,651		
La Grande-3	2,304		
La Grande-2-A	1,998		
La Grande-1	1,368		
Laforge 1	838		
Brisay	447		
	14,934	Quebec only = 51%	Including Churchill Falls = 41%
Total HQ capacity (all sources)	31,413	93%	
**Less off grid isolated diesel sites	2,193	7.5%	
Total HQ (hydro) capacity	29,220	100%	
Total capacity from Quebec	31,413		
Churchill Falls from NFLD	5,428		
Total Hydro-Quebec capacity	**36,841**		

Source: Hydro-Quebec web site: http://www.hydroquebec.com

Notes: *For every Cree there is more than 1 square kilometre of reservoir in Eeyou Istchee.

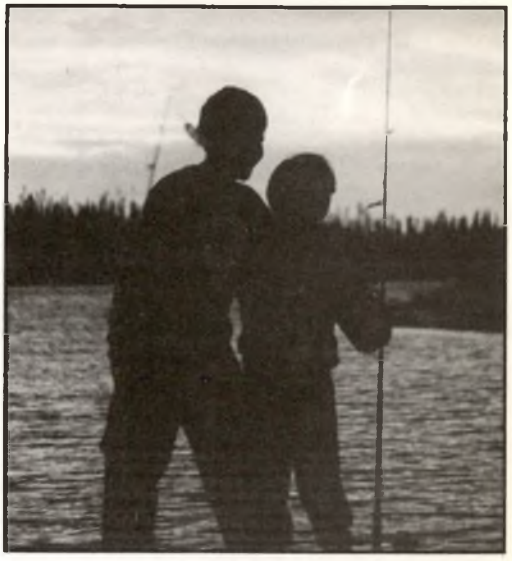
** Generators located in the Inuit Communities are heavily subsidized by the Federal Government.

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Crie

NO HEROES, JUST PARENTS

By William Nicholls



In today's society we take it for granted that Aboriginal children should be fostered out to Aboriginal foster parents. This is a lesson well-taught through the problems that arose when Native kids were adopted by non-Native parents. One only has to look at the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples to see the mass of raw data pointing the finger at residential schools and adoption policies concerning Aboriginal people. Federal government policies placed an estimated 15,000 Native children in non-Aboriginal settings since the 1960s. A lot of Aboriginal children who went through the "Sixties Scoop" say they couldn't fit in and led troubled lives.

Rena Rubin says the government's policy has changed. "We know that children who are taken away from their community the children will search out their Native identity and roots." Rubin's organization, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, says they have a responsibility to find substitute families which represent the race and cultural heritage of the child. If it's an Inuit child they would try to find an Inuit household. If this isn't possible they would look for a kinship home where the household is First Nations.

"The philosophy is we don't want the children to have to try to find their identity. It's traumatizing enough to be taken away from their parents," she said. "We don't want to add to that by taking away their culture and identity. We've seen the results in the past."

But there are still problems. Currently, the new philosophy is under attack in a high-profile case before the Supreme Court of Canada. It's an international fight with a well-off white family that wants to adopt a Native child versus the child's impoverished family with a grandfather who wants custody. The plaintiffs offer a "better" life on their Connecticut farm. "You have a deeply troubled family on one side and a normal one on the other," said the plaintiff's lawyer. Those were the same arguments the government used: they were only trying to give Aboriginal children a more privileged life.

Another problem is that there aren't enough Aboriginal families fostering or adopting children. One wonders if it is a lack of knowledge of the need, or fears of the unknown of fostering or adopting. I had a chance to talk to some people who are making a difference. Tiiorakwate Konwaronhia:wi and his wife are Mohawk foster parents through Batshaw. No names beyond their Mohawk names will be used in this interview to respect the privacy of the children. Both foster parents in this story are 51 years old and they have taken care of nine children since 1990. They currently have two adopted children. One is Ojibway and the other is Cree. After adopting the first child they were approached to foster a 14-year-old boy. It was the start of something they came to love.

They had a lot of love and shared it with others who needed it. When I think of foster parents, I'll think of them now. Before I thought foster parents were perfect people with no problems. This is not true. Foster parents come from all walks of life from those on welfare to those making a lot of money. They may be single, married or living with someone. They can be heterosexual, homosexual and of any racial, religious or cultural background. What matters is the care you can give a child. Tiiorakwate Konwaronhia:wi and his wife give the children what they need, a little parenting from someone who cares.

The Nation: What was the first one like?

Tiiorakwate Konwaronhia:wi's wife: When he came into our home it was a good experience. I was a little leery because of his age. With that age I didn't know what life would have in store for me. At the time my husband was away working in the Virgin Islands. I consulted with him but he left it up to me. He was supportive and said it might be a good experience if I wanted to try it.

I found the boy was very conscientious and the eldest of five siblings. He was really attentive to my little girl. He was my first long-term. It went well. While he was with me I took in emergency placements. These were overnight things. Once the re-unification (with the mother/father) took place with him, for my part me and my daughter were at a loss because we were back to one child. We were approached to take in two other siblings from the community, a brother and sister. From then on they came in two's.

Cont'd on page 21

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Cont'd from page 19

Are you taking care of anyone right now?

Yes, the baby came at four months old and she's six years old. The brother was three and now he's 10. They were long-term, two years until the reunification took place. Then I did the restorative care, which kind of weaned me off of them. That's how I looked at it, as a weaning-off period, which was good for all parties. When that was over the mother continued with it; I was okay with it.

In a turn of events the children came back to me. So they're still in my life. They were never really out of it. With this particular family I have to say there was a bonding, especially with taking someone in so young. She was four months old. When I was approached to take in this family there was a strong possibility of adoption for the little girl. I went in with it saying, "How would you feel if you had to give her up as the mother gets well and the children go home?" I couldn't answer that but said I would go into it like the other children. They are in my care and my goal is their reunification with the parent(s). No matter what, they love their mother

Most of the children I've taken care of have one parent and that's usually the mother. I had to go into it with my mind saying, "I'm taking care of these children for their mother. When she gets well enough they're going to go home. But with the long-term these changed. There was definitely a bonding with the baby. With the older boy it was different. When he walked in through that door, I saw a little boy of three. He was smiling from ear to ear with his chunky little sister and I thought, "Wow, this is going to be easy."

Not soon after when he was with us and I was cradling her, I said to her, "My baby," out loud. He turned around and said to me, "She's not your baby, she's my mother's." When he said that I thought he knows it. In the years I was involved with him I would definitely say he bonded with his mother. His sister bonded with me. I bonded with her. They've both been with me so long I'm committed to them. If you know First Nations people, we take care of each other. We're responsible for everyone's children. That's how I grew up. It's still like that. I know it. The community I'm living in, we take care of our people. The young and the old.

Back to these siblings. I learned very early she wasn't my baby. I had to tell myself I'm not going to make that mistake again. I did say to the boy that's right, but is it okay? I'm saying that because I'm taking care of her for your mom. I had to get his permission. He only had to say it once to me. I was careful not to say that. I got to know their mother and eventually meet her while she was going to treatment and going the distance of bringing her children to visit me after the reunification. It showed the bond between her and her son. Through that first year I got to know her more. I made sure I wasn't overstepping my boundaries. It was getting to know and keeping that relationship not too close. My experiences in fostering before meant getting involved with the mother and sibling.

With this particular family I wanted to get to know her a little myself. I mean I have her children. In time they really grew on me. My goal was that she would get back together with the children. I wanted that with my heart. I put myself in her position because I understand where she's coming from as an Aboriginal with a problem of addiction. I always liked her from the beginning. She's a very serious woman who never really opened up to me through all these years. I still don't know her totally but I respect her.

When the children came they didn't rebel at the separation with their mother. They were too young to explain why they were there. I didn't touch on that topic even today. I'm very careful. We don't talk about why they're there, especially with the older one. He's 10 and starting through changes. He could be dealing with what he remembers. The bonding he had with his mother has always been there. I've seen it over time.

I always look to the mother to take charge when there were supervised visits. I saw how she was with the boy; she was always all over him and just looking at the baby. She couldn't take charge at first. With time it did happen. I wanted to see her do that. I had to see that; I wanted to see that bonding taking place. It did take place and when the reunification took place, it was bittersweet.

I was happy about the reunification but it was like a mourning period for us. When I brought the children to her place I told the mother how I felt about her children. I admitted I bonded with the baby and I would never forget her. I was asking her to take care of the baby girl. I believed she was capable of taking care of the children like I did and I was there for her if she needed me.

What was a blessing to me was they could have left and I would never have seen them again. But the mother continued it. First it was every weekend, then every two weeks and finally every month until they stopped. Then we said, okay,. mother's on her own. I couldn't call her; she would have to call me. Mother kept it going. It was an understanding between the two of us because I was straight with her. I showed my emotions that day. She knew me then.

When her life fell apart again she called me first even before the authorities. When I found out what happened I told her I would try to find out where the children were. At that point she asked me if I would take them back again. It was her choice in the beginning to have us as foster parents and the second time she chose us again. They're still with us today. The little girl calls me mom in front of her mother. Her mother told her she had two moms half-way in the relationship.

There's still hope that one day when they're older they can reunite. I don't know if that's possible right now but I know it's important, especially for the boy. They know her and it's important. Even if we kept them until they were adults, they are going to seek just like I expect my two adopted children to seek out their natural parents. I have an open life book on my adopted son. I can show him about his biological parents. My adopted daughter is different as she's a little bit of a mystery. Now she's 10 and asking questions but is basi-

Cont'd on page 23

16TH ANNUAL CHISASIBI INVITATIONAL SENIOR HOCKEY & BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

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DEADLINE: March 5th, 1999 (5:00pm)

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A LATE PAYMENT will be charged of $150.00 for each category.
Photocopied cheques or Money Orders are not accepted.
Teams that want to pay on arrival will also be charged $150.00.
Payments must be received by the deadline. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

PRIZES:	**OPEN CLASS HOCKEY**	Champions	$6,000.00
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		Finalists	$2,000.00
	RECREATIONAL BROOMBALL	Champions	$1,000.00
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* **PRIZES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DUE TO THE NUMBER OF TEAMS PARTICIPATING.**

** **If there are less than five (5) teams registered for the Recreational Division it will be cancelled.**

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Cont'd from page 21

cally happy with her life. I don't know what kind of questions are going to come later though. They both know they're adopted.

When the reunification took place with the two foster children it was hard on my adopted children because they had bonded with the two kids. They were brothers and sisters for the time they were with us. I was out every day doing something with the kids when the foster siblings left. Luckily it was summer months and there were visitors from the Maritimes. They helped to fill that void when a child goes out of your life. It was good that the mother visited us to wean us off the children slowly. She kept her children in our life. Even though we don't socialize you could say the mother is part of our family.

What do you see as some of the most basic fears of fostering?

Taking in babies. I'm trying to get some more people to foster and this is what I'm hearing on the side. I find when you mention babies the first reaction is, "I don't know if I can do that." Other people have said to me. "How can you give them back? Or is this the one you're adopting?" I have to tell them, no, the children have their mother in their life. This shies away some people, the thought of taking a baby. I try to talk to them about my experiences with fostering.

Of course, I'm going to stress the positive stuff. There are positive things that I share. It's making a difference in a young person's life until mother or the parents get back on track. It makes a difference. There's a need, especially with Aboriginal children. We find the children searching and only finding out late in life what it means to be Native. They have no idea but they look like Natives. I see it, hear and read about it.

Coming from a First Nations perspective I understand what addiction can do to someone who's Aboriginal. They're suffering enough just trying to get better but the children are so innocent and deserve a chance. That's where I'm coming from. I want to make that difference.

In the end it just happened. I'm living it and I'm happy. The rewards are a good experience and I made a difference in someone's life. The first one today is 18, a young man who's a father and he acknowledges my husband and me. We helped with his reading problems when he was young in school. Today he's with the books; he's an assistant librarian. He invited me to the baby shower. He told me that I made a difference for him. I was happy when he told me that.

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Canada

A First Nation voice

By Xavier Kataquapit

Before I started writing my column, Under the Northern Sky, I didn't know much about Native publications. After doing a little research, I was amazed to find out that there were so many high-quality First Nations publications.

Most of the time my people, up the James Bay coast, get their information from the mainstream non-Native media. Today we are bombarded by mostly American television and radio programming. Many people in Attawapiskat have satellite receiving systems or dishes, with access to a couple of hundred mostly American channels.

Thankfully, our First Nations communities up the coast have access to Wawatay, a Native-owned and operated television, radio and newspaper society. Everybody up North listens to Wawatay Radio, which broadcasts call-in requests, Elder features, stories and general news from the area. Wawatay television features productions on sensitive issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, and covers the traditional pursuits of First Nations people. Wawatay Newspaper is distributed throughout the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation area and beyond. It is a vital source of Native news that helps keep all of us northerners informed.

There are many other great First Nations publications. The Nation, which focuses on news from the Quebec side of the James Bay area, is a magazine-type format that is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications with a head office in Chisasibi, Quebec. This is a professional publication dedicated to keeping people in remote communities informed. Another wonderful publication is the Anishinabek News, which is a tab-size newspaper published monthly by the Union of Ontario Indians for the Anishinabek Nation. This paper, which is based in the Nipissing First Nation near North Bay, is distributed across Ontario.

Further south there is the Tekawennake Six Nations and New Credit News, which is a tab-size newspaper printed weekly. The "Teka," as it is referred to affectionately by people who are familiar with the newspaper, is based in Ohsweken. The Wikwemikong Newspaper is a monthly publication based in Wikwemikong, Ontario, on Manitoulin Island. The Moosonee Freighter, based in Timmins, Ontario, although not Native-owned, services the eastern James Bay coastal First Nations communities, and the Cochrane Times based in Cochrane, Ontario, has a high Native readership.

The First Perspective and The Drum, both monthly Native publications, and Cree Nation News, a bimonthly newspaper, are all based in the Brokenhead First Nation, Manitoba. Native Journal is another impressive and comprehensive national Native publication based in Edmonton, Alberta. The Alberta Native News, which is published monthly, is distributed throughout much of Canada. This newspaper is based in Edmonton. Windspeaker newspaper is a long-established monthly newspaper also published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society in Edmonton.

You can imagine how surprised I was to find out that there were so many Native publications available. First Nations people are often either disregarded or stereotyped by the mainstream media, so it is very important that we as a people have our own voice. A big thank you to all those who work the long hours and so hard to give us that voice.

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Société en commandite

The Fonds régional de solidarite Nord-du-Quebec invests in Explorations Minières de Nord

Chibougamau, Thursday January 21, 1999 - The Fonds régional de solidaritè Nord-du-Québec has invested $50,000 in Explorations Minière du Nord. This investment will allow the enterprise, operating in Chibougamau, to complete overall financing of $780,000.

The proceeds of the financing will be used to advance work on the Lac Shorrt, Lespérance, and Le Tac properties located in the heart of the auriferous corridor outlined by the Lac Shortt (400 000 ounces) and Bachelor (150 000 ounces) mines, in the Chibougamau Mining Camp.

"Our investment", stated the General Manager of the the Fonds régional de solidarite Nord-du-Québec, Claude Ladouceur, "is in line with our objective of the developing the mineral sector of the Nord-du-Quebec Region. Our investments in exploration companies, for which we have a total budget of $900,000 will contribute to supporting the buildup of the region's mining reserves. It is essential for us to support mining exploration today in order to build up tomorrow's mines and to maintain direct and indirect jobs (restaurants, hotels, businesses) in the region."

Claude Ladouceur firmly believes that "Exploration is the foundation of the mining economy. Without exploration, there can be no mining. And so, mining infrastructures, such as ore-processing mills, specialized machinery, railroads, and especially, highly specialized personnel such as ore-processing circuit operators and long-hole drillers, would disappear from the region. Such a situation would mark the end of mining activities in the region."

The Fonds régional de solidarité Nord-du-Québec can make investments of $50,000 to $500,000 in businesses which are starting up, at the first stages of development, in growth, or restructuring. In addition to investing in enterprises, the Fonds régional's mission also consists of offer them technical support. Its priorities lie in developing the tourism industry, in communications, in transportation, and in developing regional natural resources.

As of last November 30th, the 17 Regional Solidarity Funds had authorized 265 dossiers in 180 partner-enterprises, totaling $48.7 M in investments and generating projects in the order of $273.1 M, while maintaining or creating 4,601 jobs in all the regions of Quebec.

For information:

Claude Ladouceur, General Manager
Fonds régional de solidarité Nord-du-Québec
Telephone: (418) 748-8180
Fax: (418)748-7121

Or

Paul A. Girard, President
Explorations Minières du Nord inc.
Telephone: (514) 866-6500
Fax: (514) 866-3799

Or

Pierre Leduc, conseiller aux aommunications
Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ)
Toll-free telephone: 1-800-361-5017

Chisasibi Skating Club shines

Congratulations to all the 15 skaters and their coach Rhonda Spencer from the Chisasibi Skating Club. They successfully competed at the Rencontre Patinage Plus held in Rouyn-Noranda on Saturday, January 23.

Every skater won a medal and some were able to win two medals. The group from the Chisasibi Skating Club also won the Team Trophy.

The competition, held at the Jacques Laperriere and Rejean Houle arenas for over 350 skaters from all over the Abitibi region, was the first ever attended by skaters from the Chisasibi Skating Club. The first figure skater from Chisasibi to ever skate for the club in a competition was Rachel Sam.

All of the skaters from Chisasibi participated in three events in front of judges. In the solo event, each skater had to perform a minute-and-a-half routine to music. Each routine had to include specific required elements. Skaters were marked on their execution of these required elements and their artistic presentation. In the team element event, each member of a team (maximum five skaters) was required to perform a specific skill. The marks received by each member of the team were then totaled to determine the team winners. The interpretive event was grouped by age and each group of five skaters was required to make up and then perform a routine to a musical number from Grease or by the Spice Girls.

Even though everyone was a little nervous, each skater tried to do his or her best. No one gave up and every skater performed well.

Congratulations to the following:

Coach: Rhonda Spencer

Solo Intermédiaire - Group 1: Janice Cox, Third Place

Solo Intermédiaire - Group 2: Stephanie Sam, Second Place

Solo Avancé - Group 2: Steven Tapiatic, First Place

Solo Avancé - Group 4: Marsha Kanatewat, Second Place

Solo Débutant - Group 4: Crystal Chewanish, First Place

Solo Débutant - Group 5: Juliette Ottereyes, First Place; Germaine Quachegan, Second Place

Solo Débutant - Group 6: Jenny Snowboy, First Place

Solo Débutant - Group 8: Deborah Pashagumeskum, First Place

Élément Imposé- Étape 5 - Group 1: Highlights: Second Place - Stella Bearskin, Marina Fleming, Geneva Matthew, Juliette Ottereyes, Deborah Pashagumeskum

Élément Imposé - Étape 7: Sigabon: Second Place - Raphaelle House, Marsha Kanatewat, Steven Tapiatic

Interprétation - Brilliants (Grease): Boppers: Third Place - Crystal Chewanish, Sarah Herodier, Stephanie Sam, Rachel Sam, Marina Fleming

The next big event for the 162 skaters of the Chisasibi Skating Club will be the ice show which will be held on April 19 and 20 at Job's Memorial Gardens in Chisasibi. Highlighting this show will be two special guest skaters, Elizabeth Manley and Jozef Sabovcik. We are honoured that Jozef and Elizabeth have agreed to share their talents with our club and look forward to exciting performances from our guest skaters and our young skaters. Everyone is welcome!

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continued from page 6

job. What you do day in and day out takes a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication. From my own experience what you do must also sometimes take a toll on your social lives and your families. It's these kinds of things that some people don't seem to understand. Running a magazine such as The Nation is not a 9-to-5 job. Good work. I love reading the classifieds and the editorials, as well as the Rez Notes. I find them to be very cool.

Anyway what I was trying to say is that people should just give you guys a break. You guys, as well as the radio stations in the communities, are bringing us news every day, which I think some people can't seem to handle (as Jack Nicholson put it, "You can't handle the truth"). All they want to read are these fairy-tale good little stories. That's why we have little books that we can read to our kids. But if we keep trying to believe that all Native people are good abiding citizens then we are turning a blind eye.

For example, the Cree Construction Company - how many Crees do they hire? I have heard many people (Cree workers) who work for that company, including my husband. He talks about how they hire non-Cree people to fill these positions that could have been filled by Crees, but they won't consider hiring Cree, and it's a CREE COMPANY. I don't know. You tell me. And I bet you if you ask the president he'll give you this mumbo jumbo about skills or experience or whatever he will tell you. Believe me it will all be BULL@#(*! Because my husband gets that a lot. All they will give my husband is a lot of promises, but that is just what I am saying. The people who actually feel the short end of the stick are the ones who suffer the most. These kinds of stories have to be told. The Nation is a means or a medium for people to speak out about certain issues that affect them in their communities, because God knows that when we try it the proper way and take it to the top, we just get the run-around, and nothing is done.

People need to know what is going on in the other communities, whether they be bad or good stories. We don't live in a black and white world. There are shaded areas of gray. The Nation is one of the best things that have happened to the Crees of James Bay. Keep up the good work. We are behind you. But don't come into my personal life, OKAY. (Then we've got ourselves a deal.)

Faithful reader
Chisasibi

Art and Eva

Letter to The Nation:

On behalf of my brothers and sisters, the family of Arthur and Eva Solomon, I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the "Tribute" regarding the lives of our Mom and Dad which you published in your Sept. 25 issue of The Nation. Each member of my family whom I've spoken to has expressed their joy and pleasure to see such kind words written in their memory, truly the nicest and most concise tribute we've seen printed.

We especially want to thank the writer Jody Freeman for her kindness to Mom and Dad, not only for her tribute but also in the kindness she showed them in life as well.

We know they have joined with "The Grandfathers and Grandmothers" who went before him and it's though this kind of stories and memories that we are most intimately connected to those who have passed on ahead of us. Keeping the memories alive can be a source of strength and inspiration for us all to do better in our own lives.

Megwetch.

Ray Solomon
Shediac, New Brunswick

No dough

Letter to The Nation:

RE: Cree trappers' request (see The Nation, Nov. 6, 1998)

At the September 1998 meeting of the Board of Compensation, a request was presented to fund the proposed interim Assistance Fund for Cree Trappers affected by the forestry operations in the Cree territory. The board of directors reviewed the request, discussed it and then voted by secret ballot on it. The first two rounds of voting resulted in tie votes, nine in favour and nine against the request. The outcome of the third round of voting was seven in favour and 11 against. In passing the resolution rejecting the request, 15 board members were in favour, two were against and one abstained.

The interim Trappers' Assistance Fun request had been submitted to the Board of Compensation by the Grand Council of the Crees/CRA Council. The Board was informed that although the Board/Council had approved the request, it did not have the funds required to implement the project. The Board of Compensation was in a similar situation since it had committed all 1998-99 revenues from investments at its March 1998 meeting.

The policy of the Board of Compensation provides that only revenues from the capital of the compensation funds will be disbursed each year. For each fiscal year, the Board projects the revenues that will be realized from investments, business loans and other sources. The projected revenues are then used as the basis for determining the amounts that will be allocated to different organizations.

The annual allocations are for the following: 1) Investment managers' and custodial fees, 2) Board of Compensation operating budget, 3) Interest on unused portion of Community Fund, 4) Reinvestment of a minimum of $1 million, 5) Major Capital Projects Fund ($1 million to a different community each year), 6) Cree Rights Fund ($1 million to the GCCEI each year), 7) Community Fund (an equitable allocation to each Cree First Nation based on population, with base amounts to the smaller communities), and 8) Administration Fund (for all other Cree entities, including the Cree Trappers' Association).

After the first five categories have been deducted from the projected revenues, the balance is split between the Community Fund, the Administration Fund and the Cree Rights Fund, with the larger portion being allocated to the Community Fund. Projections of revenues are done prior to the March meeting of the board of directors each year and all projected revenues are allocated by the directors at that time.

During the 1998-99 fiscal year, the Board of Compensation was faced with major uncertainties with respect to earned revenues as a result of the stock-market volatility. The Board did not want to reduce its commitments to the Cree First Nations and other entities. The only changes that it felt comfortable making were to set aside the $1 million annual reinvestment and to

reduce its operating budget.

For the information of the Cree readers, each year since 1985 the Board of Compensation has disbursed funds to the Cree Trappers' Association. There are three programs under the CTA which are funded each year. They are the five-year plan, local committees and the Cree portion of the tripartite funding that is supposed to be funded by the Crees, the federal and provincial governments. From the 1989-90 fiscal year to 1998-99, the Board has disbursed for just these three programs an amount of $4,665,560. The total budget approved for the CTA for 1998-99 is $430,925.

It should be evident then that the Board of Compensation did not reject the request for the Assistance Fund for Cree Trappers merely because it did not want to fund it. The members will consider another request, if presented, at the March 1999 meeting. However, it is certain that the trappers themselves would be the first to admit that sometimes one must do without for the time being to ensure that resources are not depleted in the long-term.

Whether it is the land, the resources on the land or the money from compensation funds, the Crees have an obligation to safeguard them all for the use of all Crees and for future generations.

Janie Pachano
Board of Compensation
Ouje-Bougoumou

To dad with love

Letter to The Nation:

Please print the enclosed item if it is suitable for the next issue. I believe that single parents or all parents need to be reminded how special they are to their loved ones. This article would be appropriate because it is Valentine's Day!!

A special thank-you note to that special father and his two sons:

In your sons' eyes, you are special. In God's eyes, you are special. In my spiritual eyes, you are the most caring and wonderful father. I cannot help but comment on the "wonder of you." You are a blessing from God. Our children, Denny (age 12) and Daniel (age 9), will treasure the quality time you spend with them, through being involved in special activities. They shall remember the special trips, when you watched patiently, as they took their first snowboarding lessons. They shall forever remember the fun and laughter trying their best in snowboarding. You were there to encourage when they went out to rollerblade. Your sons saw you as their "hero" when you played hockey with them. You were there to assist your son on the last-minute school projects, and he no doubt proudly presented his project in class. Doing homework with dad was even special because they learned respect and responsibility. They learned the importance of schooling.

The housework was not easy, since it is mom's job. Saturday, laundry was done together, but not eagerly, but enough to give them that sense of more responsibility. Your sons' chores were sometimes skipped because the Nintendo was more inviting. When there were squabble, you are the good referee with high esteem. You have managed stress very well; how rewarding! You are there to kiss and hug them when loneliness strikes their little hearts.

You are there to teach them about love and hear them say, "I love you," in return. How beautiful! You are being blessed with beautiful memories of your sons' life experiences. They shall treasure the moments and be grateful for a dad who took the time to show love and care. The precious, good moments out-weigh the bleak moments!

As for me, it was not easy to let my sons go for a few months. But I do want to thank you for allowing me to feel the trust and freedom to enjoy a rewarding year, working up north with the Crees. I also made a complete circle of a healing journey when I returned to my birthplace of Waskaganish, Quebec. And I sense the love of God overshadowing me, as I wait patiently to join my family again. No matter what, you are the special person in my life.

Dennis, I admire your unbelievable strength and love for your family. It is not easy as a single parent and being a full-time student at Canador College. When the love of God takes over, the love out-weighs the struggles or difficult times! May God keep blessing.

I just want to say I appreciate your help.

With love, your wife of 15 years.

Alice Desjarlais
Waskaganish

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

LES MINES INMET

Inmet Mining Corporation's Troilus Division is an open-pit gold and copper mine with a mill capacity of 15 000 tonnes daily. The mine's facilities are located 175 km North of Chibougamau by way of the Route du Nord and include and include a first-rate camp where employees, working on a 4-3 or 7-7 schedule, are lodged.

The Troilus Division, an important employer of Cree workers and active in the economic development of Mistissini, is presently in search of a Cree Employment Coordinator. The incumbent, working on a 4-3 work schedule, will report to the Director of Human Resources and will play an active role in the operations of this department and in the implementation and application of the Agreement between Inmet and the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

Employment Requirements

Candidates for the position of Cree Employment Coordinator should meet the following pre-requisites:

- A high school diploma or equivalent education and work experience is minimally required. Post-secondary education in Industrial Relations or Administration is a definite asset.
- Working knowledge of English and Cree is required. A working knowledge of French is an asset.
- Previous experience in hiring, recruiting, and work relations is considered an asset.
- Office and computer skills are definite assets.
- A general's driver license is required.

Main Duties

The Cree Employment Coordinator is an active member of the Human Resources team and, in his/her functions, performs all or some of the following duties:

- Participates in the recruiting, interviewing, and selection of candidates. If necessary, ensures that candidates can do interviews in Cree.
- Ensures proper communications between the Company and the Cree community, including employees, candidates and the Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini. This includes recruitment campaigns, labour relations, general public conferences in the Cree communities, etc.
- Conducts information campaigns in Mistissini regarding the mine, including employment and contract opportunities available. This may also include organizing visits to the site by interested parties.
- Provides the Cree with information concerning employment and contract opportunities at Troilus.
- Assists in ensuring that barriers to the employment of the Cree at Troilus, other than bonafide employment qualifications, are eliminated.
- Provides activity reports to the Implementation Committee concerning Cree issues related to the position, including reports on the status of all employment, Cree employment statistics, both direct and indirect through all contracting opportunities.
- Ensures that social, linguistic and cultural particularities of the Crees are considered in the mine's operations and in the working conditions applicable to all employees.
- Sees to the translation of important and general notices into Cree.
- Participates in the clerical and administrative activities of the Human Resources Department.

Comments

Inmet offers a competitive wage and social benefits package. Applicants are thanked for their interest but are advised that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Inmet Mining Corporation is committed to Cree hiring. Interested candidates should send their applications, by March 15, 1999, to:

Inmet Mining Corporation - Troilus Division
Attn: Human Resources Director
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau, Quebec
G8P 3A9

Reference: Posting 057 - Cree Employment Coordinator

continued from page 9

those contracts. Cree Construction gets most of its contracts from outside (the communities).

Also, take the food wholesaler, Servinor. Again, we sell to some communities, like Wemindji and Waskaganish, a little in Eastmain. But other places are hard to get into. They'd rather give their business to other wholesalers.

I read that Air Creebec is considering buying Air Alliance.

Air Alliance is having difficulty in its operations. Air Canada owns 100 per cent of it. There are a lot of people looking at purchasing Air Alliance and we were also there. Other than that, I can't tell you any more at this time. It's still under discussion.

A few years ago we published a study that was done for the Grand Council, which said if the money that had been put into CREECO. by the Board of Compensation was invested in stocks instead, it would be worth a lot more today. What do you think about this?

I'll tell you this. Hindsight speaks best in anything we do. Whoever was part of that decision in creating CREECO., they saw an opportunity in saying, let's start an airline for our people. Crees agreed to that. Cree Construction was created again by Crees seeing an opportunity, saying there's going to be lots of construction in the Cree communities; we can capitalize on this by creating our own company.

The objectives and goals of the communities have changed. They're trying to set up their own companies now and capitalize at their own local levels.

When you say we could have taken our money and invested it somewhere else and made more money, for sure, I agree with you 100 per cent. But that decision was made a long time ago to start these companies. We have to live by it. We have to try to create something of it.

Around the same time, there was another study about hiring of Crees in the companies. At the time, one in three CREE CO. employees was Cree. Has the situation improved?

I don't think it really has improved that significantly. But we really want to establish a Cree basis to hire people. That's a must. That's an objective we're going to have to start bragging about in the next couple of years. Not only labour type jobs. But full-time administration jobs. Jobs that are permanent and not only based on seasonal construction. We have talked to all our presidents and managers. We told them the moment you think of hiring someone, you've got to think brown.

We are also looking at various programs to try to do this. The Board of Compensation is looking at starting a Cree Youth Development Strategy Program over a 12-year period. We have jobs that need to be filled - controllers, clerks, chief accountants, maintenance foremen. We're saying to the youth, here are the opportunities. If somebody can come and replace this individual over the course of a few months, we'll take that individual. We'll train them. For instance, right now our financial analyst (Janie Pachano) is resigning and we said there's no way we're going to hire a white person for that job. We're going to hire a Cree, maybe a recent graduate, and we're going to offer them training.

We should be very sincere about this and start putting down the positions that can be made available for those students.

Did you have anything else you wanted to point out?

Maybe the situation with some of our companies. We're open to ideas here in trying to get business for them from the local communities. We know there's a lot of potential for business, especially regarding food and construction. We'd like to open the door for people to make all sorts of suggestions.

Is there a reason some of the communities have been less reluctant to do that and is there something that can be changed to open that up?

I think Cree Construction has made a name for itself and they're trying to get out of that situation right now. They're trying to improve. The whole top level next to the president (Steven Bearskin) has changed. These are new people and I think they're more open to ideas, rather than the old guard we used to have there.

And at Servinor?

Servinor has a different president altogether and a different director-general. We have a very reliable financial controller.

At both companies there's been a small upheaval at the top?

Yes. Yes, both companies.

Thank you.

No problem.

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

CLASSIFIEDS

101-BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to our special friend and cousin Shawn Jasmo on Feb. 5 1999. Happy birthday and many more years to, and we hope you have a wonderful birthday. From your cousins brandy Lee and Kerrianne. (Eastmain) P.S. happy Valentine's Day

Happy belated birthday to my boyfriend and my husband to be, James Sealhunter on January 19, 1999. Many more to come, I'd love you with all my heart. Love always, Mary Jane Swallow. (Chisasibi)

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my aunt Cheryl Swallow on Feb. 6, 1999. I hope you enjoy your special day, many more to come. With love, from your niece Mary Jane Swallow. (Chisasibi)

Happy third birthday to our boy Sebastien Coon-Come on Feb. 20 1999. You have grown so tall, we can't wait for you to play hockey at Job's Garden. Hope you have fun at your birthday party. With love always, Mom and dad.

I would like to wish my son Shawn Tomatuk a happy 14th birthday on Feb. 5. I wish you happiness today and always. Hope you have fun on your special day, as special as you are. Just a reminder, you may be a year or older but you still have a curfew to follow. Love always, Mom.

Happy belated blessed birthday to my mom/granny, margaret martinhunter on Jan. 11 1999. Hope you had a wonderful day he. With lots of love from Valerie and Quentin.

Happy birthday to my husband Norman who will turn???? On February 10 1999. Just a little note to say that I love you and thanks for your understanding and caring. We miss you a lot being away always. Anyway have a happy happy birthday. Love, Louise and daughters.

Happy belated birthday and many more years to calm to Sharon Gull on January 14th 1999. From friends Lorraine K. (Hull) P.S. no more memory used in that bar, you know your bar.

Happy birthday to my daddy Rene Coonishish on December 31 and a happy new year. Dad, Mom and I love you so much. Hugs and kisses, you're daughter Alyssa.

Happy belated birthday to a wonderful sister Lillian Moses on Jan. 13. Have a nice day and don't work too hard. Slowdown once in a while. We are thankful to have a sister who cares and thank you for all the things that you have done for us. May God richly bless you. Love always from sister Emma and brother-in-law Sam Katapatuk. Waskaganish, Quebec.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to someone I dearly love from eastmain. Happy birthday lover boy. Thanks for all your help and support to, your kindness and understanding and caring. Most of all, your love. From someone who loves you. Waskaganish.

Belated birthday wishes to my cousin Noel Masty. He turned 14 years old on De-

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The Organizing Committee
of the Cree Nation
Invitational Tournament
would like to take this opportunity to
invite everyone to the this year's
Minor hockey and broomball tournament taking place in Val d'Or from March 4th to 7th.
We would also like to wish the best of luck to all of this year's participants.

For more information contact your
local recreation director in your community.

CLASSIFIEDS

cember 25 1998. To my grandmother Amy Niquanicappo. She turns 67 years old on Jan. 3 1999. To my aunt Betsy Masty. She turned 30 something on Jan. 9 1999 and to my uncle Joseph Niquanicappo his birthday was on Jan. 29 1999. I love you all in take care. From Mary Niquanicappo in Montreal.

I would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to Cheslianne Saganash. I miss you a lot and I think about you every now and then. I wish I could be at your birthday party. I can imagine how it looks with all your friends there and balloons everywhere. Happy birthday to my special niece. Plus I would like to say hi to all my family. My father Robbie, my mother Annie and to all my brothers and sisters. Hope to see you soon. I miss you all a lot. xoxoxoxoxo. To my nephews and nieces as well. Love, Christina Saganash Miniquaken (soon to be)

To my sweetheart who will be celebrating his 14th birthday on Feb. 5. Never forget, I want to be your No. 1 always. No one else should come between us. Hope you still have my picture I gave you for Christmas. I hope it's me you see every morning when you get up and every night when you go to bed. Remember, my love is only for you and don't you ever forget it! Happy birthday, Shawn and many more to come.

Birthday wish is going out to our dad Johnny who will be celebrating his 40th birthday on Feb. 11 1999. May we get to share many more birthdays with you. We love you dad. Shawna, Sheldon, Catherine and Sherry Ann.

Maria! Maria! (Did you forget) just a reminder that your birthday is coming up on the 12th of February 1999. And the 12th is on Friday and since you been so busy lately, hardly have any time to communicate your family back home, I just want to say rest, go on a date, take a break or else does white strings will explode, happy birthday sister and to let you know I love you and take good care of yourself. Louise.

Happy first birthday to (Sameunz) Samuel McLeod on Feb. 11 1999, who will be celebrating his birthday in Hull, Quebec, you level "weamistikushew" we miss your little blue eyes, your little big head and year sweet smile. But with our thoughts and prayer is we want to issue a happy birthday from your auntie and uncle and of course your cousins Samantha and Charlene, we send you all those hugs it and kisses from all of as.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to a great friend of mine who will be celebrating his 14th birthday on Feb. 5. I cherish our friendship more than words can describe you are in understanding and caring person. May our friendship last a lifetime. Happy birthday Shawn and many more to come. Friend always Katherine.

Birthday greetings to Kenneth Moar who will be celebrating his day on February 10th. We just would like you to know that we love you with all our hearts. Love, Shirley, Andrea, Martina and Jennica Moar.

A birthday wish to someone special on Feb. 14th, our daughter Rosalie. We want to tell you that you are a beautiful part of our lives and we love you with all our hearts. Had a special Valentine's Day. Love always, Mom and dad.

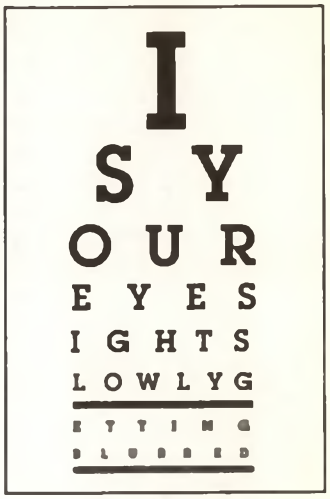
Happy birthday to my step daughter Lillian Moses on Jan. 13 1999 (Eastmain) I thought about you on your birthday. Story I couldn't be there to help you make a feast. I thank the Lord for keeping you this year. May he keep you always. God bless you. I'll keep you in my prayers. Love always, from your step mother Clara Moses. (Wask.)

Happy birthday to my son Michael Esau on Jan. 17. I love you and don't drink too much. Remember, I'm always praying for you. You are the only son I've got now and I don't want anything to happen to you. Always remember God loves you and he's watching over us, especially you my son. May God bless you! All my love, Mom Clara Moses.

I want to wish a happy belated birthday to my two cousins in Whap. Chantall Bullfrog on Jan. 4 and to Jason Bullfrog on Jan. 12 and Bobby Bullfrog and Darius Shecapio both on Jan. 31. Happy birthday to both of you. And many more to come. From Jennifer Shecapio.

Birthday greetings to going out to my nephew Ryan Gilpin in Eastmain. He'll be celebrating his seventh on Jan. 22. My oh my you're growing up so fast. Soon you will be a young man. Lots of love from auntie and in Montreal.

On April 8, somebody special in Waskaganish will be celebrating his birthday, so happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday dear Mickey Mouse, happy birthday to you! Hope you have a great time, not too much now! Thinking though you always, Minnie Mouse.



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Happy belated birthdays to Ruth Dixon and Priscilla Ottereyes. Hope you have fun on your special days. Take care. Love always, Sandra and Sherry.

ALEXANDRI KOVI BAZAUT PAPA, MAMA, FILIP ee MECHAYIL. MNOHAYA LEETA, LEETA,MNOHAYA L-EE-T-A-A TZOM!

Wishing our son Darian Ryan Joseph Loon a happy fifth birthday on Feb. 15. Enjoy your day Sunshine, you are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy, when skies are gray, you never know me, how much I love you, please don't take my sunshine away. Be a nice boy, don't quit school you're just starting. I love you so much. Love, mom and dad.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy fifth anniversary to my brother Charlo and to his wife Lynda. I'm so black have you both in my life and also up to my sons life. Thank you so much for being the loving, caring and supporting people. We love you more than words can say. May the Lord bless you as you celebrate another anniversary on Jan. 28 1999. With lots of Love, sister Rachel Black Smith & Christopher Robin house. Hey! Better late than never!

200-FOR SALE

Yamaha Acoustic console (standup) piano, 2 1/2 years old. Black lacquer, polished ebony. Full scale (88 keys, 2 pedals). Included are leather bench, musical scores and timer. $3,500. Call Ruthie Matoush at (418) 748-4750

300-PERSONALS

Congratulations to my niece Marsha Kanatewat for her ice show in Rouyn on January 23rd 1999. I heard you and your partner Steven Tapiatic won something. I'm so proud of you. I wanted to go there, but I couldn't. We went to see our aunt Sally in Montreal hospital. I bet you and your friends had a great time. Can't wait to hear your story in Rouyn. I love and miss you so much. Love, auntie Lorraine K. (Hull) xoxooxoxoxo to

To my Valentine, you know that I love you because I show it in my own little ways, even though I don't say it enough. You brought happiness into my life that I never dreamed was possible. You gave me to beautiful children that I love with everything that I am and everything that I have to offer. You are all my precious jewels in my life. In my mind, I have a picture view when I close my eyes. You are more than a lover in my life and a father to my children. You are my best friend. I love you! XOX

Happy Valentine's Day to the person we love, Allen House. Thinking of you always and hoping you'll be here with us. Love always, your son Christopher Robin and Mama Rachel Blacksmith. P.S. dad, I'm starting to get off from the couch! We love you!

Happy Valentine's Day to my relatives in Chisasibi, to my grandparents Leonard and Mina. Thinking of you always. Hoping you'll come and see me someday. Also to my relatives in Mistissini happy Valentine's Day. Especially to Grandma Sally and Grandpa Joe. Love you all! From baby Christopher Robin house.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Ghislaine Charette, of Beric Sports, passed away on Feb. 2, 1999 at the age of 63 years. Ghislaine served the Crees for 23 years. Her family and Beric Sports thank everyone for their support. She will be greatly missed. The Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to Ghislaine's family and friends.

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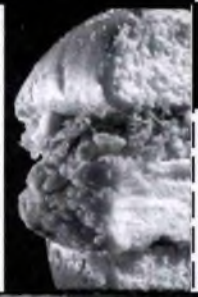

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Get a piece of Chicken FREE with the purchase of a 3 Piece Meal.
Includes: Individual Fries & 100 ml Salad

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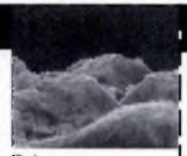
FOR TWO

$9.99 plus tax
Two 3 Piece Meals
Includes: Individual Fries & 100 ml Salads

Redeemable at participating KFC Restaurants. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. Please present coupon when ordering. Taxes extra. This coupon has no cash value. Coupon expires April 10, 1999.

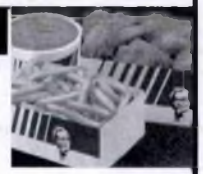
FOR MORE FREE



Get 5 Pieces of Chicken FREE with the purchase of a 20 Piece Barrel and Large Fries or 25 Piece Club Pack and Large Fries.

Redeemable at participating KFC Restaurants. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. Please present coupon when ordering. Taxes extra. This coupon has no cash value. Coupon expires April 10, 1999.

FOR FOUR



$14.99 plus tax
10 Piece Meal
Includes: Fries & 250 ml Gravy

Redeemable at participating KFC Restaurants. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. Please present coupon when ordering. Taxes extra. This coupon has no cash value. Coupon expires April 10, 1999.

FOR FOUR

$14.99 plus tax
15 Piece Bucket

Redeemable at participating KFC Restaurants. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. Please present coupon when ordering. Taxes extra. This coupon has no cash value. Coupon expires April 10, 1999.

FOR FOUR FREE

Get one large salad FREE with the purchase of a 10 piece meal or 15 piece meal.

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FOR FOUR FREE

Get one large salad FREE with the purchase of a 10 piece meal or 15 piece meal.

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